

## FRENCH INDO-CHINA

It was principally this group which tightened credit and pro-many forced sales. The proprietors or their families do not themselves cultivate the soil, for this would be beneath their dignity. Being forced to hire their property is proportionately less profitable to them to their humbler colleagues. In turn, they resort to usury to funds. Since this is the class from which town Notables are they are notoriously unscrupulous in abusing their position. They are able, unlike the small proprietors, to use government facilities, and can pay much less than their legal taxes. By OH fete days, and by gifts to the communal cult, they acquire a popular standing. Their situation has been particularly good in years, when they have been able to sell at high prices their paddy, and to use their income either in usury or in purchasing This forms about 10 per cent of the population. Tonkin are *par excellence* the land of small properties. In the old provinces of Cochio-China property is much subdivided there is a k<sup>er</sup> class of small landowners. In Tonkin 98 per cent Annam 89 per cent, of the proprietors cultivate their in with the situation in Cochin-China. The small veiy capital. Some possess only seeds, and a few or \* cow. There *m<sub>f</sub>* too, a certain amount of mutual assistance at are cbnmically in need of money to pay to in the communal fetes. So they are always **to** they cannot get directly but through the do not fail to lake a big commission. Unlike the if disusCer overtakes the region where a commerce on the side, and through Their lack of reserve funds and this of former to sel paddy at harvest of to it at a very low price. Later, to feed their femi-

144